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Daily Highlights

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council extends mandate of United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus for further six-months period, until 15 December, 1993.

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, says recently discovered FMLN arms cache is most serious violation of El Salvador Peace Accords; urges FMLN to provide inventory of arms and to surrender them in accordance with Accords.

+ Croatia calls for emergency meeting of Security Council concerning "recent offensive by Muslim forces" on Croatian civilians in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ UNDP Governing Council descusses German proposal to relocate headquarters of UNDP and UNFPA to Bonn.

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The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for a further six-months period, until 15 December, 1993. The Council took that action by adopting unanimously resolution 839 (1993).

Under the resolution, the Council expressed support for the Secretary-General's report of 9 June, in which he said the new mandate of UNFICYP implied greater responsibilities for the two parties to lower tension, including mutual commitments, through UNFICYP, to prohibit along the cease-fire lines live ammunition or weapons other than those which are hand-held.

The Secretary-General had argued in his report that in view of the new financial stability of the Force and the restructuring plan to limit the number of observers, the continued presence of UNFICYP on the island remained "indispensable" for an agreement between the two communities.

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The cost to the United Nations of maintaining UNFICYP for six months was estimated at $22.5 million of which about 50 percent would be financed by voluntary contributions, the report said. The remaining $10 million would be sought from the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, according to the Secretary-General's recommendations. Previously, UNFICYP was funded entirely from voluntary contributions resulting in an accumulated deficit of $200 million since the inception of the Force in 1964.

Joint talks between the leaders of the two communities in Cyprus -- the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots -- are expected to resume on Monday, 14 June. The talks, which are being chaired by the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Joe Clark, will focus on arrangements for reopening Nicosia Airport and placing the area of Varosha under the United Nations administration.

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The Security Council, in a Presidential statement, today said that the maintenance of a clandestine arms cache by the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) was the most serious violation of the El Salvador Peace Accords signed in Mexico City in January 1992 and demanded again that the Accords be complied with promptly. The statement, which was issued by Council President Juan Antonio Yañez-Barnuevo (Spain), is in response to a letter by the Secretary-General of 8 June regarding the FMLN arms cache discovered on 23 May.

The Council again urged the FMLN to provide a complete inventory of its arms and munitions inside and outside El Salvador, to surrender them in accordance with the Peace Accords, and to continue to cooperate with the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL). It expressed satisfaction at the cooperation of the Government of Nicaragua in itemizing and disposing of arms and munitions found.

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Croatia, in a letter to the United Nations, has called for an emergency meeting of the Security Council concerning the "recent offensive by Muslim forces" on Croatian civilians in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Mario Nobilo, Croatian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, said in the letter that hundreds of Croats had been killed around the town of Travik, and more than 25,000 Croats had been expelled from their homes. The continuation of the offensive would lead to a massive flow of refugees into Croatia, which was already accommodating more than 250,000 Muslim refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina, the letter warned. The situation had "all the elements of a humanitarian catastrophe" that could jeopardize the fragile peace process in the region.

The only answer was to persuade the parties in conflict to implement the Vance-Owen peace plan, as had been agreed by Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban on 19 May, Croatia said.

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Germany has said that its offer to relocate the headquarters of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to Bonn is based on a resolve to bear international responsibility and to make the city a center for North-South cooperation, the country's representative told the UNDP Governing Council's fortieth session yesterday. Headquarters premises would be provided rent-free and major maintenance operations would be paid for, the representative said. Most States responding to a questionnaire on the proposed move saw only disadvantages, he said, but less than half of all Member States had responded.

The United States representative said UNDP and UNFPA headquarters should remain in New York City, in accordance with the Secretary-General's desire to streamline the United Nations. A move would burden developing countries with having to establish diplomatic corps in Bonn and would interrupt the work of the agencies for up to a year, he pointed out.

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